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Letter to Jennie Guiney, 1861 August 7

Patrick Guiney

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intelligence does. Then again
we have about two hundred
here who seem to be ambitious
only to eat, sleep, loaf, and get
all they can generally. They
think a soldier should never
be called on to do duty, to march
a long distance or to sleep out-
doors. I look at it in a different
light. It ought to be known by
these young brats who grumble
so much, that privations in
war are unavoidable sometimes.

My Dear, I am tired
writing so much matter of
fact to you, to whom I
should rather speak of my
hope and love. I will say
no more about others at present
and, dear, I must close with
that ever recurring feeling
which utters

"God Bless you Darling"
Your Husband

Arlington, August 7th 1864
My Dear Jennie:

I was in Washington
yesterday, no official business
and took advantage of a spare
moment to have an ambrosy
taken and which I sent to you
per Adams Express. When in the
city I saw Ex-Mayor Otis of
Roxbury, and I also met John
McCloy Jr of Roxbury on
Pennsylvania Avenue. They
both promised to call and
see you on their return.
and to tell you how well
I was. On my return to Camp
I found a letter from you
and some papers.

My Dear, I am surpri-
sed that you do not receive
my letters more promptly than

you do. I write often, although at irregular intervals. I am always sure to write as soon as I receive yours; but then I am sometimes absent when your letters come and this causes a delay. And again the mail communication with the city is sometimes interrupted. I think you will receive all my letters, and I think I receive all yours. My dear, I receive lots of papers from you every week, in fact every day or two. I sent you a little money; did you get it? Have you made up your mind yet as to where you will spend our separation months? Let me know of your minutest thought on this subject, so interesting to me.

In reference to what

that young fellow said in his letter to his friends, I must say in justice that his story is entirely false. There is no such thing as "starvation" or "exhaustion" here. I assure you Jennie, our suffering is more intellectual than physical. I refer you to one of my late letters for further particulars. Does he say anything about ill-treatment on my part? There are many men here who complain of all sorts of imaginary wrongs. They are lazy, and a nuisance in any army. Anything which they are asked to do, they consider an oppression upon them. When they are so malicious there is no end to what they will say. They see everything in a different light from that in which a person of experience and